

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: October 11, 2005
Date Submitted: October 5, 2005
To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board
From: Parwez Alam, County Administrator *PA*
Vincent Long, Assistant County Administrator
Subject: Request to Schedule a Public Hearing for October 25, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.
to Amend Ordinance #00-29, Regarding the Leon County Research and
Development Authority (LCRDA) Nominating Committee Membership

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests that the Board schedule a public hearing for October 25, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. to amend Ordinance #00-29, regarding the Leon County Research and Development Authority (LCRDA) Nominating Committee membership, to include County representation (Attachment #1).

Background:

During their regular meeting on September 20, 2005, the Board considered a September 13, 2005, letter from Linda Nichol森, Innovation Park Executive Director. In this letter, Ms. Nichol森 presented the Board with a list of individuals recommended for the replacement of Ms. Sylvia Jordan on the LCRDA. At that time, the Board questioned the nominating committee process for LCRDA appointees and directed staff to prepare an agenda item on this issue (Attachment #2).

Analysis:

Prior to 2000, the membership of the LCRDA governing body was provided for in state law and consisted mostly of appointees from various statewide officials, such as the House Speaker, Senate President and University System Chancellor. However, during the 2000 legislative session, Representative Marjorie Turnbull sponsored a bill authorizing the Leon County Board of County Commissioners to make a majority of the appointments to the LCRDA (Innovation Park's governing body). On July 11, 2000, the Board adopted an ordinance that conformed to Representative Turnbull's approved legislation. Ordinance #00-29 details that the membership of the LCRDA shall be comprised of appointees of the Presidents of FSU and FAMU, respectively, and at least five other individuals to be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The ordinance also created a "nominating" committee that is charged with recommending nominees to the Board for their appointment to the LCRDA when vacancies occur (Attachment #3).

In accordance with Resolution #04-02, the LCRDA is comprised of nine members. The first five members of the LCRDA include appointments by each of the Presidents of FAMU and FSU, the President of TCC, the Mayor of Tallahassee and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, or its designee. The remaining four members of the LCRDA are appointees selected and approved by a majority of the Board of County Commissioners (Attachment #4).

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As stated previously, Ordinance #00-29 establishes a committee to provide recommendations to the Board to fill vacancies on the LCRDA. Under the terms of that ordinance, the nominating committee is comprised of the following individuals:

- One representative from the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Council (currently Ms. Sue Dick)
- One representative from the City of Tallahassee Economic Development Office (currently Mr. Michael Parker)

Although not specifically included in the ordinance, one representative of the Capital City Chamber of Commerce (Mr. Terence Hinson) has been added to this committee by Innovation Park staff to further diversify representation on the nominating committee. As such, the process to identify nominees to replace Ms. Jordan, for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners, was fulfilled by this committee of three individuals. Significantly, this nomination process did *not* include any committee representation, or input, from a County representative (Attachment #5).

At this time, staff is recommending that the Board schedule a public hearing for October 25, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. to amend Ordinance #00-29. At that time, the membership of the nominating committee would be amended to include a representative from the County. The amendment of the committee's membership could also serve to more accurately reflect the Board's prioritization of further economic development and improved tenant relations at the Park. Accordingly, it is also recommended that the Board direct preparation of an amended ordinance with a nominating committee comprised of the following members:

- County Administrator or designee
- President of the Tallahassee/Leon County Economic Development Council
- Director of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory at Innovation Park

Options:

1. Schedule a public hearing for October 25, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. to amend Ordinance #00-29, regarding the Leon County Research and Development Authority Nominating Committee membership.
2. Prepare the amended ordinance to include a nominating committee comprised of the County Administrator (or designee), the President of the Tallahassee/Leon County EDC and the Director of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory at Innovation Park.
3. Do not schedule a public hearing.
4. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Options #1 and #2

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Attachments:

1. Ordinance #00-29; Relating to the Membership, and Nominating Committee, of the LCRDA.
2. September 13, 2005, Letter from Linda Nicholson regarding Nominating Committee recommendations for replacement of Ms. Sylvia Jordan on LCRDA.
3. July 11, 2000, Agenda Item: "Public Hearing to Amend the Code of Laws Governing Membership Composition of the LCRDA".
4. Resolution #04-02; Relating to the Membership of the LCRDA.
5. Innovation Park documentation providing overview of current Nominating Committee process and membership.

PA/VL/BHP